

SYNTROPY

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Bogotá (Colombia)

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SYNTROPY

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"All profound distraction opens certain doors. You have to allow yourself to be distracted when you are unable to concentrate."

Julio Cortazar

The incomplete formula

I have seen her walking in front of me. To be more specific, her reflection moved at the z-coordinate on the bright metal-coated surface that hangs on the wall of my living room. I don't think this transparency can be disturbed from the three-dimensional crystalline region.

Then, I remember reading about the various activities in which those objects have taken part: *"it*

is believed that the confusion and surprise preceded the awareness of their existence." The same story as fire, music, or writing. Most likely, scientists think, *"we first met them through the water, the same instant their beings appear and hide, according to the direction in which we looked, to the rhythm of our curiosity."*

Later, some historians suggested we had noticed, again, of the same images, between the fascination for brightness and reflectance of some volcanic rocks, especially those formed

during the final phases of the eruptions, such as obsidian. And as we did not know how to explain them or the beings they showed, we associated them with divine powers such as those of Tezcatlipoca and Athena, and with great stories such as Perseus defeating the terrible Medusa.

And then, yearning to control such power, the kings of some indigenous and European cultures used those objects to "know" and control the destiny of men. In Thessaly, for example, witches manipulated them to write their

blood oracles. The specularii, on the other hand, a cast of ancient Roman priests, claimed to know in them the past, the present, and the future.

Could it be possible to influence the chemical composition of the materials in such a way as to give them those attributes? Is there a missing step in the fusion at 1400°C degrees or their formation, heat treatment, and polishing, either naturally or man-made? If so, I think Romans knew the process well, for they even dared to give an expiration

date: "If you break one you will receive seven years of misfortune."

Fortunately, Romans kept their secret very well. We only know they made the material by polarizing metal cations and anions of silicon (SiO_2), aluminum (Al_2O_3), clays, and water (H_2O), by generating a stable interatomic crystalline distortion. It was then attached to a film of aluminum, copper, iron, silver, or platinum by a bonding - better say cementation - to an intermediate oxide film. No other ingredients are present.

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If we find something else, how do you think life would be if the domain of refractive index and absorption and diffusion coefficients allowed, as some think, that bad luck come the moment someone looks over your shoulder? What if the soul were trapped by not covering them at funerals? What if the evil spirits of the underground would have in their reflective surface a door to our world? Spirits such as those inhabit "the house of the mirror" or Tezcatlipoca himself, or the inverted universe of Alice? Moreover, what if we were to age at the

pace of Dorian Grey or be unable to know the difference between vampires and humans?

I think they work well. I prefer the theory that they only show the true nature of each one. But be careful: it could be someday that someone finds something that fits the recipe. The world would never be the same!

In the meantime, I turn quickly to be sure I am alone.

References:

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